

Hampshire Ornithological Society

Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee
Held on 28 February 2023 at 7.30pm at Littleton Memorial Hall

Present:	Initials	Present:	Initials
Keith Betton (Chair)	KFB	Barry Page	BP
Andy Mitchelmore (Treasurer)	AM	Kay Shillitoe	KS
David Brookes (Secretary)	DB	Helen Schneider	HS
Mike Chalmers	MLC	Janice Beck	JB
Nicola Whitmarsh	NW		
Marcus Ward	MW		

1. Apologies:

Andrew Colenutt	ACo
Jayne Chapman	JC
Annette Clayson	ACL
Andy Lester	AL

2. Introduction

KFB introduced Dave Palmer (DP), Di Warner (DW) and Tommy Saunders (TS) who had been invited to the meeting as they were to become trustees at the forthcoming AGM. Martin Pitt, who is to become County Recorder was invited but was unable to attend. DP, DW and TS introduced themselves and the trustees gave a brief summary of their roles in HOS.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8 November 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to two corrections pointed out by AM. The amount maturing to be moved to a Charity Bank 100 day notice account was £20,000 not £29,000. (Action: DB – Complete)

4. Matters Arising:

- a) The Hampshire Bird Atlas will be free. It is downloadable from the website with a link to a £5 donation.
- b) Kingfisher costs – CR has reduced cost by:
 - reducing the number of pages (52 from 60);
 - lower quality paper (lighter);
 - new printers;Also
 - no return address envelopes;
 - better rate from post office;
 - Cost for latest edition £3,100 compared to £4,812 for previous.
- c) £20,000 has been moved to the Charity Bank 100 day notice deposit.
- d) HOS won the Dartford Warbler survey contract. £8,000 to be received late 2023/early 2024.
- e) School nest boxes. A donation of £450 has been received which KFB suggested be used for young people/ nest boxes. HOS will cover the cost of the first nest boxes at a school. KS will look for more schools. Plaque for HOS donation.

5. Treasurer's Report (AM)

AM reported that the Independent Examination of the 2022 income and expenditure account had been completed by Joy Aubin with no concerns raised. 2022 had been a steady year with the surplus being £1,102 and cash funds at 31 December being £106,975.

2023 looks good so far c. £3,600 received from Hampshire Biodiversity Centre for HOS share of HOS data sold to third parties and c. £4,000 gift aid received. Good sales achieved at the Fieldworkers' meeting with 69 attendees.

Possible grants/donations to third parties – KFB suggested a £5,000 donation to the BTO Bird Flu Appeal which had so far raised £100,000. After a debate on the impact on Hampshire birds and the amount of the donation it was agreed by a majority decision that a £5,000 donation would be made and that this would be announced at the Members' Day. Of those in attendance, one trustee was not in favour of the donation and two trustees were in favour but thought that a lower amount should be donated. (Action KFB)

Should HOS become a Charitable Incorporated organisation? A discussion took place as to whether HOS should become a CIO which is an entity in its own right. The main benefit would be to reduce the personal liability of trustees, although the existing insurance cover does protect the trustees. A change would require structure changes and changes to bank accounts which would require a lot of administration to membership subscriptions paid by standing orders /direct debit. Also, the costs of compliance, legal and accountancy fees would be much higher. It was agreed that no change would be made in the short-term with this matter being revisited in the future.

6. Members' Day/AGM

BP – Exhibition opens at 09.30. AGM will take place from 10.30 to 11.30. Lunch break/ exhibition open from 13.00 to 14.30, with the day scheduled to finish at 16.00.

KFB – Speakers as per leaflet, Beccy Speight (RSPB), Juliet Vickery (BTO), John Clark (RBOH), James Aldred (Goshawks) and David Lindo (Urban Birds).

- BP:
- Two exhibition halls, usual hall and hall in prep school.
 - 24-26 exhibitors including HOS. Includes bird food and two booksellers
 - Young members art/photography exhibition in new hall
 - A barista has been secured (St Swithun's charged a finder's fee). Members encouraged to bring their own food and drink. Plenty of space to eat and drink
 - Signage will be better,
 - Supplementary registration desk to cover both entrances,
 - Raffle prizes better and will be advertised better,
 - Expert auction – KFB, Andy Page, Peter Durnell and Steve Egerton – Read. Sent out to HOS list,
 - Cash floats organised;
 - Zoom briefing for volunteers to be held before the day. (Action: BP)

KFB – Chairs opening remarks to involve young members/support group for women.

7. Membership update

Membership (KS) – 140 new members in 2022 with 13 leavers (mainly deaths or moving). 20 new members so far in 2023 (2 Cameron Bespolka Trust). 338 unpaid members (March/April standing orders). 36 members still paying £12.

Young member activity (JB) – Bird flu has curtailed bird ringing. Blashford shut for bird ringing and no response from Hengisbury Head at the moment. MW will be doing a Hawfinch ringing. This weekend Dimitri will be leading a young members walk a Needs Ore along with the warden (12 people). Last weekend there was a meet the artist event (Rachel Hudson) where 7 young people were taught artist skills. There will be an exhibition of young member art and photography at the Members' Day.

Ladybirders Initiative (JB). There now 65 in the group – a lot more walks have been organised by the members. There is an urban walk in Southampton organised in a couple of weeks and other walks planned at Keyhaven and St Catherine's Hill.

There is an article in the latest Kingfisher about a Ladybirders walk.

HOS New Members' Event on 5 March (KFB) – 30 new members attending the walk at Keyhaven on Sunday.

Birdsongs walks coming up – 4 leaders, 7 outings. Most now full. Cost £10, should bring in £600.

8. Sales update

NW – RBOH sales this year £383, thirteen sold (5 through NHBS). Should sell more at the Members Day. 75 books in stock, to date costs £13,825 and income £12,643 leaving £1,183 sales to breakeven overall.

Other sales - £170 clothing DVD and £270 other publications mostly from Fieldworkers' Day. There have been books donated by Chris Packham and Tony Hale.

9. Scientific Sub-Committee

Update on grants (MW) – 5 applications have been received:

- Redshank GPS tracking in the Avon Valley (Lizzie Grayshon) - £2,460,
- Redstart productivity – (Tara Dempsey) requested £1,255 for an endoscope,
- Sand Martin research (Georgie Digby) – Now put back to 2024,
- Website for Dartford Warbler survey (Nigel Matthews) - £300,
- Oxy Marsh island creation (Peter Durnell) - £10,000 – likely to be withdrawn.

The Redstart productivity project was discussed. It was agreed that the endoscope would be purchased by HOS and would be an asset which would be loaned to Tara Dempsey and returned to HOS at the end of the project. Tara to also supply data to HOS. MW to advise Tara Dempsey of this (Action: MW).

10. Survey Plans 2023

MW – planned surveys Marsh Tit and Dartford Warbler.

11. Hampshire Bird Report 2022

MC – On track so far. Records to be sent out end of March/early April. Full content – 5 papers, 3 notes and 1 obituary (Tony Hale).

12. Conservation Liaison

KFB in AL's absence:

- No news on Tipner. Tipner East going ahead. Tipner West (main concern) on backburner.
- Southsea Castle coastline being reinforced. New rocks put into foundations.

- Hamble Old Airfield – HOS asked to support. There are few bird records from there (skylarks) so not supported.

13. Succession Planning

- KFB to stay as chair for at least one more year.
- David Palmer taking over from DB as Secretary.
- DB taking over from AM as Treasurer. AM standing down at AGM.
- NW retiring as a trustee but staying on as sales officer.
- ACL retires at AGM
- New trustees Di Warner and Tommy Saunders for 3 years from AGM.
- Space for one more trustee (possibly co-opt NW if additional trustee not appointed)

14. Any Other Business

AM asked if paper bank statements could be dispensed with. This was agreed.

15. Further Meetings

Next meeting late May/early June by Zoom. TBA

September meeting in person

November meeting by zoom

David Brookes
Secretary